

**Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Huron University College  
Undergraduate Course Outline  
Philosophy 2074F (550): Business Ethics  
Fall 2018**



Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Julie Ponesse

Office: Benson 3

Office hours: T 9-10:30 am

Email: [jponesse@alumni.uwo.ca](mailto:jponesse@alumni.uwo.ca)

Class time: M 8:30-11:30 am

Class location: HC-W12

Course content: OWLSakai

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Business ethics is the study of business situations, activities and decisions where issues of right and wrong arise. Rarely are these issues simple or straightforward. But while there are no easy answers, there are better or worse ones. We study business ethics to develop tools that help us justify the claim that certain decisions should be evaluated as ethical or unethical, or right or wrong. We will spend the next twelve weeks developing tools to think about business ethics productively.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, students should have a better grasp of the nature and practice of business ethics, which will be helpful in taking a position on ethical issues in the marketplace. Students will also have the opportunity to develop analytic and communication skills that can be applied in other contexts. Specifically, students should be able to:

- Identify, describe and apply key business ethics concepts
- Identify morally relevant factors in a business case from the perspective of different stakeholders, and derive ethical guidelines to aid in decision-making
- Defend ethical recommendations in a way that concedes their strengths and limitations, and apply them to similar actual and hypothetical business cases
- Paraphrase business ethics arguments and assess their merits
- Research and write a concise position on a current issue in business ethics

**TEXT:**

Damian Grace, Stephen Cohen, and William R. Holmes, *Business Ethics: A Canadian Perspective*, 3rd edition (required). Available from the Western Bookstore.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The following course requirements will help you achieve the above objectives, and they will be used to give you feedback on your progress. All marks will be posted to OWL as they are compiled, and papers will be returned within two weeks of submission.

- (1) Writing assignment - 1500 words (Due October 28) 50%
- (2) Final exam 50%

**(1) Writing Assignments**

You will be given one writing assignment composed of a series of questions aimed at testing your understanding of the key course concepts and their application to contemporary cases. The assignment will be distributed in class well in advance of the due date, and will be posted on Owl. Assignments will be submitted electronically to the Owl course site.

**(2) Final exam**

The final exam will occur during the final exam period. The exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE**

<b>Week and Topic</b>	<b>Reading (all from course text)</b>
Class #1 (September 10) <i>Introduction to Ethical Reasoning in Business</i>	No reading
Class #2 (September 17) <i>Ethical Reasoning in Business cont.'d</i>	Chapter 1, pp. 1-10, 12-25, 40-45
September 24 <b>No class</b>	
Class #3 (October 1) <i>Dirty hands</i>	Chapter 2, pp. 48-63
Class #4 (October 15) <i>Stakeholders</i>	Chapter 3, pp. 68-75
Class #5 (October 22) <i>Marketing and Advertising Ethics</i>	Chapter 5, pp. 109-124

Week and Topic	Reading (all from course text)
October 28 <b>Writing assignment due</b> by midnight (electronic submission to Owl)	
Class #6 (October 29) <i>Equal Opportunity, Discrimination, and Affirmative Action</i>	Chapter 6, pp. 134-152
Class #7 (November 5) <i>Whistleblowing</i>	Chapter 7, pp. 153-163
Class #8 (November 12) <i>Corporate Governance</i>	Chapter 8, pp. 170-179
Class #9 (November 19) <i>The Environment</i>	Chapter 11, pp. 245-267
Class #10 (November 26) <i>International Business Ethics</i>	Chapter 12, pp. 271-286
Class #11 (December 3) <i>Course Review and Exam Information</i>	No reading

**Late penalty policy:**

Late papers will be subject to a 5% penalty on the first day that it is late, and a further 1% penalty for each subsequent day it is late (including each day of the weekend) until the last day of the semester, at which point a grade of 0 will be automatically entered (following Senate guidelines set out on p. 117 of the UWO 2015-16 Academic Calendar).

For medical accommodation please see the relevant policy in the appendix.



**The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.**